

The American Observer

A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe

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Health Conditions In U. S. Meet Criticism

Special Senate Committee Hears Witnesses Tell of Many Needed Changes

SELECTIVE SERVICE RECORDS CITED

National Health Program May Result But Measures Are Sharply Debated

A renewed drive to improve the health of the American people is expected to result from hearings conducted in recent days by a special committee of the Senate. While most of Congress is away on recess, this small committee, headed by Senator Pepper of Florida, is examining the records on health which have been amassed through the operations of the Selective Service system.

In many ways the picture is encouraging, but enough of it is bad to cause genuine concern and to stimulate the establishment of a long-range health program.

On the encouraging side is the fact that about 10,100,000 men are already serving in the nation's armed forces, having passed the physical examinations set up by the Army and the Navy. On many fronts, thousands of them are meeting the rigors of modern war with distinction and are winning victories over tough and well-trained enemies.

The Home Front

The home front, too, is functioning well. The production miracles which have been achieved, for example, are the work of millions who have the stamina to stay at their jobs overtime and to devise an endless stream of industrial improvements.

Despite these undeniable signs of national strength, it is a fact—as reported to the Senate committee—that over 4,100,000 men aged 18 through 37 have been rejected as unfit for military service. Of the 5,000,000 to 6,000,000 men yet to be examined, perhaps another million are slated to be classified 4-F if their numbers come up. Including those accepted for military service, eight out of every 10 draft registrants have had at least one physical defect, leaving only two entirely free from defects.

Other testimony before the Senate committee has brought out additional facts about health conditions in the United States. Federal Security Administrator Paul McNutt made the estimate that some 23,500,000 persons are afflicted with chronic diseases or physical impairments.

A Navy dental officer, who is president of the American Dental Association, declared that 95 per cent of the American people have dental defects. Only 30 per cent of those in need of dental care, he added, are receiving it.

The effect of ill health on the ranks of industry also received attention. The average male industrial worker loses 10 days from work each year due to illness or injury, and the average woman worker loses 12 days a year.

(Concluded on page 2)



Blood plasma is saving thousands of American lives on the battlefields of the world.

A Word of Warning

There is no question that Germany is now in a desperate position. At the same time, all military authorities agree that she is still strong enough to take a heavy toll of Allied lives and to prolong the day of total defeat. The following editorial, which appeared in the Scripps-Howard chain of newspapers, warned the American people against falling for a German scheme which might still save that country from the military disaster that otherwise is inevitable. The editorial says:

Germany has put out peace feelers at least six times in the last four months, according to Allied sources in Madrid. That is not surprising. Efforts by Germany to get a favorable peace have been reported ever since she overran Europe, and particularly since she began her long retreats from Stalingrad and El Alamein. Now that the Allies have breached her Italian line, her Atlantic Wall and her vast eastern hedgehog defenses, as well as her air cover, more peace feelers are expected.

There is danger in this. For Americans and Britons may jump from the headlines, of Allied advances on all fronts and German peace moves, to the conclusion that the enemy is close to surrender. Such is not the case. Germany's purpose in these diplomatic feelers is not to facilitate but to prevent unconditional surrender.

She still has the bargaining power of a huge army, almost as large and as formidable as ever. She knows—and knows that we know she knows—that she cannot win the war. But she also knows that she can make Allied victory terribly expensive; so expensive, she hopes, that we shall make a compromise deal rather than pay the price.

Her best bet is that Allied public opinion may soar in over-confidence now, and then crash in bitter war-weariness as our casualty lists lengthen in a possible military stalemate. That is why President Roosevelt, General Eisenhower, and all responsible Allied spokesmen today are trying so hard to convince us that final victory is not in sight, that the biggest battles and the worst losses have not even begun. In the classic reply of our Commandant of Marines to the idea that the war is all over: "All over—but the fighting."

The German Junkers—who plan to get a compromise peace by dumping Hitler, but saving themselves for another war—must count increasingly on present Allied over-confidence turning to disappointment and to armistice demands. For the Junkers no longer can count so much on working their other tricks. . . .

In any event the only ultimate guarantee that Germany will not win the war by a compromise peace is Allied determination to fight until total victory and unconditional surrender, no matter what it costs or how long it takes. In the end that will be the cheapest and shortest way, because anything less means another world war.

Allies Grapple With Flying Bomb Problem

Admit Germans Have Achieved Technical Victory with New Weapon

OPERATION OF MISSILE EXPLAINED

Attacks Not Altering Course of This War But Are Revealing Pattern of Future Wars

Lashing out furiously at the Calais coast of France, Allied planes are doing their utmost to destroy the installations from which the Germans are sending flying bombs to rain down on London. It is believed that Allied efforts are having some success in reducing the "robot raids" which have wrought much havoc in London since they began over a month ago, but the bombs continue to come in fairly steady streams nevertheless. The installations are hard to hit and can easily be replaced.

It is admitted that the Germans have achieved something of a technical victory in developing this new weapon, although Allied observers are convinced that the Nazis will not be able to use it in sufficient force to have any real effect upon the war. The civilian population of England is suffering, and London is passing through another "blitz," but the Allied offensive goes on without interruption in schedule. If anything, the determination is greater to push it through to the quickest possible conclusion.

Hitler's "Secret Weapon"

There are rumors that the present one-ton missiles are about to be supplanted by 10-ton projectiles, launched from somewhere in Belgium. Technically there is no reason why this could not be done, but it is a question whether the Germans have been able to develop the new weapon to such an extent so rapidly. It usually takes time and a great deal of experimentation to bring a new weapon to its greatest usefulness. However, it is well to be prepared for further and more frightful damage by flying bombs before the war is over. If the conflict in Europe should be prolonged beyond present expectations the rocket weapon may become a serious menace.

Hitler's "secret weapon," about which the Nazis boasted for so long, and which they unquestionably planned to have in use long before this, is fundamentally a simple and ingenious device. According to one account it is the invention of a Professor Oberth, formerly sound and scenic expert with a German film company. Professor Oberth gained access to Field Marshal Kesselring, who was then a colonel in the German air ministry. Kesselring was impressed and the device was brought to the attention of Goering, who readily provided Professor Oberth with all the technical assistance required for development of the weapon. This happened in 1937 and it is only now that the efforts have come to fruition.

A good description of the flying (Concluded on page 7)



America looks to the health of its future generation. The nation has been reminded by recent findings of the need for greater attention to health problems.

Picture of U. S. Health—Good and Bad

(Concluded from page 1)

Lack of medical care, of course, cannot be blamed for the 2,400,000 persons who were disabled by work injuries in 1943, but the situation does place an added strain on doctors, hospitals, and nurses.

To round out the picture, witnesses pointed out the effects of medical care on the rate of physical rejections for military service. States with fairly high incomes and good medical facilities, it was said, had low rejection rates. The rejections were highest in those states with the lowest incomes and poorest medical facilities.

Such highlights as these point to the need for a better organized attack on the problems of ill health and physical disabilities. Had some kind of program been under way earlier, Selective Service officials say, many thousands of men could have been accepted instead of rejected for military service. It thus would have been unnecessary to draft such men as engineers and other technicians, and the drafting of fathers might have been avoided.

Likewise the nation's industrial machine would function even more smoothly if better health conditions prevailed, and it goes without saying that the entire population would enjoy life to a fuller extent.

Up to this point there is little disagreement, but opinions begin to differ when it comes to deciding how to improve conditions. It is the well-known conflict between those who are in favor of the present medical system and those who believe the government should foster far-reaching changes in the system. In between the two extremes are many people who believe improvements can best be made by doctors and government working together to establish some changes in health care.

Most doctors, but not all, are naturally in favor of retaining the present system of medical care. In brief, they insist that each person should be free to choose his own doctor and that any system of government health care would break down this relationship, substituting an impersonal, bureaucratic set-up. Under such a system, they say, people would be treated in clinics where they might see one doctor one day and another the next, and this form of group medicine would cause standards of medical care to decline.

The doctors who argue this point of view also attack the validity of some of the figures being presented to the Senate committee. The 4,100,000 men now classified in 4-F, they declare, include about 10 per cent, or over 400,000, who were rejected for educational deficiencies, which cannot be blamed on the medical system.

Mental Rejections

Another 18 per cent, or about 738,000, are unfit for military service because of mental diseases and deficiencies. Without a better analysis, it is impossible to say how many of these cases are the result of earlier ill health. But certainly a good many thousands inherited their defects. Other thousands are not mentally ill nor candidates for institutions. Instead they appear to be individuals who could not face the turmoil of war, but who in civilian life are quite often successful and stable. Such cases as these, the doctors insist, in no way reflect on our present system of medicine.

Likewise the doctors protest against the inclusion of all the 200,000 or more rejected for defective eyes. Many such cases, it is true, are the aftermath of diseases, but as many

or more represent inherited defects.

But admitting that perhaps half of the men in the 4-F classification might at one time have been reclaimed, the supporters of our present medical system believe that it offers the best hope of improving general health conditions. The average life-span in the United States, they point out, has steadily lengthened through the years.

The American medical system, moreover, has constantly raised its standards for newly trained doctors, and it also has inspired research which has led to important medical discoveries. These and many other benefits, say the doctors, have come from the system of individual medical initiative.

It is argued in reply that the majority of doctors paint a picture that is far too glowing. If they do not wish to accept the Selective Service statistics then there are other facts, such as the one presented by McNutt—that 23,500,000 persons are afflicted with chronic diseases or physical impairments. Or the fact that only 30 per cent of those in need of dental care are receiving it.

Furthermore, it is pointed out, the present system is financially unfair to patients. The rich can afford the heavy fees charged them, and some of the very poor can go to free clinics or be treated free of charge by individual doctors. But the costs of good medical care are such that the rest of the poor as well as practically all the middle class cannot really afford it, causing untold thousands to put off treatments which they need.

Another handicap which is cited is the insufficiency of regular physical examinations for school pupils and young people—examinations which would uncover early signs of such diseases as tuberculosis, and would detect eyes and teeth in need of care.

Still another shortcoming charged against the medical system is that it has failed to provide as many hospitals and clinics as are needed. In many regions of the nation, persons in need of attention must travel long distances to reach hospitals, and in other places there is no opportunity for them to be hospitalized at all.

Whatever the outcome of the general controversy, there are already a number of proposals for creating improvements. Many of the witnesses before the Senate committee urged that the federal government launch a program to build hospitals, clinics, and other health centers.

They also urged the establishment of some kind of national physical fitness program as well as more intensive health training in the nation's schools. Speaking of physical fitness, Vice-Admiral Ross McIntire, who is surgeon general of the Navy and President Roosevelt's personal physician, called for a federal camping program for young people which would be modeled somewhat along the lines of the old Civilian Conservation Corps.

More Hospitals

More hospitals and health centers were proposed by Dr. Thomas Parran, surgeon general of the U. S. Public Health Service. He advocated that the federal government contribute toward a \$2,000,000,000 program which would provide the nation with an additional 427,000 hospital beds and 2,500 health centers. And although he did not go into detail, he also predicted the widespread adoption of some type of pre-payment plan for medical care and hospitalization. Under such plans, individuals and families pay small weekly or monthly sums into a common fund, and in return their doctor and hospital bills—up to a certain amount—are met out of the fund.

The most far-reaching of all proposals so far, however, is the plan contained in the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill, which has been introduced in Congress. If passed, it would install compulsory medical and hospital insurance for all persons now covered by Social Security, for their dependents, and for another 15,000,000 not now included in Social Security.

Social Security levies would be increased by \$3,000,000,000 to \$4,000,000,000 a year to pay for the program, which would provide a wide range of medical and hospital care. On the matter of choosing a physician, the individual could select any licensed doctor who wished to participate in the plan.

From these bare details, it can be seen that this is the most controversial of any of the plans yet broached. Especially since it would require all persons to be assessed whether they wished the medical care or not, it has drawn considerable criticism.

But whether this plan or another is to be adopted, it is virtually certain that demands for better health care will be met. Accustomed to the best medical care while in military service (see page 3), millions of men and women will want equally good attention when they leave the armed forces, not only for themselves but for their families. In addition, they will want it at a reasonable cost.

Whether under government sponsorship or not, the trend seems to be toward pre-payment plans for medical and hospital care. Many such plans are already in operation—in industries, in rural counties, and in cities—and they seem to be mutually advantageous to doctors and patients.

War Gives Impetus to Medical Science

TODAY'S American soldier faces greater hazards to life and well-being than any fighting man in history. Science has been mobilized to make the enemy's weapons the deadliest ever known. Nature holds the threat of disease on a hundred far-away battlefields. And in this combination of circumstances, mental ills are an ever-present danger.

But even this grim truth has its silver lining, for it is one of the paradoxes of war that as killing and destruction reach new peaks the art of saving human life is also advanced. Every war in history has seen some significant development in medicine, and in the present conflict it is estimated that our knowledge of healing has leaped forward 15 or 20 years.

Statistics tell the story of how effective Army medicine has become since the last war. Twenty-five years ago, 15.6 of every 1,000 soldiers died of wounds or disease. Today, the Army death rate has dropped to 0.6 deaths per thousand men—a 95 per cent improvement.

On specific kinds of ills, the record is even more impressive. Today twice as many men live after severe abdominal wounds as in the last war. Spinal meningitis, which killed 38 per cent of its victims in 1917 and 1918, now kills only seven per cent. The pneumonia death rate—28 per cent in the last war—is now less than one per cent. Influenza, which took 100,000 lives in the First World War, is now restricted to 0.6 cases per thousand men and almost no deaths.

The relatively small casualty list which accompanied our D-Day assault is a high tribute to the effectiveness of both our strategists and our fighting men. But a large part of the credit also belongs to the Army doctors who treated the wounded. Almost 97 per cent of those who reached hospitals are now on their way to recovery. In similar assaults in the last war, only 89 per cent of those who received treatment survived.

The Army Medical Corps owes its success in dealing with battle wounds to a number of new developments. Perhaps the most important is better and faster on-the-spot treatment. Before the invasion of France, Brigadier General Paul Ramsey Hawley, chief Army surgeon for the European theater, worked out a "chain of evacuation" system for giving immediate

care to the wounded fighting men.

First-aid men are the first link in his chain, reaching the men as they fall, easing their pain with anesthetics, preventing shock and death from loss of blood with plasma transfusions, guarding wounds from infection with sulfa drugs and penicillin. Next are the litter bearers who carry casualties to battalion aid stations 1,000 yards or less from the actual front. For those in need of more elaborate care than can be given in these stations, the next stop is a division clearing station some eight miles in the rear. Here wounds are diagnosed and priorities for transfer and treatment decided.

From this point, all the seriously wounded go to evacuation hospitals two or three hours' journey away in England for invasion troops. In these, and the more permanent field hospitals attached to them, major operations are performed and the more delicate treatments administered. The final links in General Hawley's chain—reserved for those whose recovery is a matter of long convalescence—are convalescent hospitals and permanent hospitals in the United States.

Miracle Medicines

While the efficiency of this medical assembly line is responsible for a large part of the Army doctor's success, new medicines and techniques have been equally significant. Penicillin and sulfa, wonder drugs of the war, have saved countless wounded men from infection. Plasma transfusions have almost eliminated the disastrous effects of shock following serious wounds. New anesthetics, like sodium pentathol, have cut down pain, and facilitated transportation of casualties. The use of plastics and certain light metals has revolutionized plastic surgery and bone repair.

But it is a military tradition that disease kills as many or more men than bullets. Julius Caesar, the unbeatable tactician, could not outflank the plague. Napoleon's brilliance was no match for typhus. And even in the early stages of the present war, the heroism of our soldiers in the Philippines proved ineffective against malaria.

Fighting all over the world, our soldiers face at least a score of major scourges in addition to the ills they might contract at home. Besides pneumonia, influenza, and spinal meningitis,

they are threatened by cholera, malaria, yellow fever, bubonic plague, and other less known but equally deadly diseases.

Here prevention is the Army's foremost weapon. Through inoculation, intensive education, and the most painstaking sanitary engineering, the Medical Corps has managed to beat

War menaces the health and well-being of our soldiers with things less tangible than bombs and microbes. The unspeakable nerve strain of battle, worry over distant homes and families, and discouragement over disability often make casualties of men whose bodies are whole. Forty per cent of the men discharged from our



CONVALESCENCE HOSPITAL, somewhere in the British Isles, one of many where the physical and mental casualties of war are receiving expert treatment.

these ills by seeing that most of our soldiers never get them.

For the universally known diseases, like pneumonia and influenza, preventive measures are largely a matter of maintaining general health.

The deadly tropical diseases, however, raise the problem of insect control. To the louse, the flea, and most insects except the mosquito, the Army's answer is a potent new insecticide, whose unpronounceable name has been shortened to "DDT." Every soldier is equipped with a small pepper shaker of DDT so that he may sprinkle his clothing and his person with it when in insect-ridden areas.

Since malaria is the most disastrous disease our troops contract, one of the Army Medical Corps' most intensive campaigns has been against the mosquito. Its strategy has been one of education and sanitary engineering.

All troops scheduled to serve in malaria infested parts of the world are drilled in the use of mosquito netting. They are taught to keep their bodies covered and are provided with a temporary mosquito repellent. At the same time, the sanitary engineers are busy, pouring oil and insecticides on swampy areas, clearing away vegetation which might foster mosquito breeding, and draining water-filled shell craters. As a result of their work, it is reported that the South Pacific islands we occupy are almost completely free of mosquitoes.

Of course, preventive measures are an incomplete check on disease. In spite of inoculations, general health, and caution, cures for disease are still needed, and in this field too the Army has made impressive progress. Penicillin and the sulfa drugs have reduced deaths from respiratory diseases and many other ills. Atabrine, substitute for quinine, provides relief for the malaria cases it cannot cure. And drugs and serums have been developed to relieve many other tropical scourges.

fighting forces have been incapacitated by mental and nervous disorders.

This does not mean, however, that when a man is suffering from a neurotic ailment, the Army's only solution is to discharge him. There is an important program for preventing and curing such cases.

Here again, the emphasis is on prevention. By teaching the soldier how to fight and what he is fighting for, the Army builds up necessary self-confidence before battle. In cases where men have endured unusual strains (such as combat fliers) rest homes and frequent leaves are an additional safeguard for personality stability.

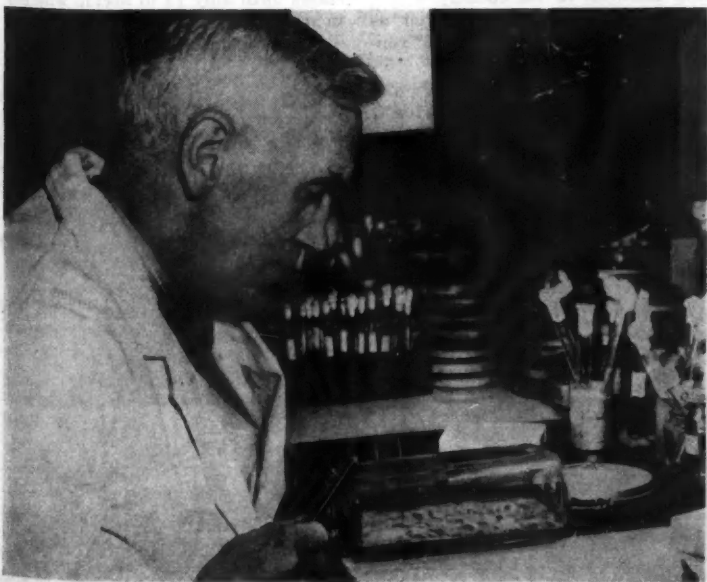
At the Front

Nor is psychiatry absent from the actual battlefield. Men who collapse in action are treated at battalion medical stations, and in 30 to 40 per cent of all cases, salvaged for further combat service. Seventy per cent are able to return to some kind of Army work.

While their bodies may heal, wounded men are especially vulnerable to neurotic disturbances. Those who have been permanently disabled often feel useless and discouraged, and even those whose recovery will be complete are often undermined by the long ordeal of convalescence.

To meet this problem, the Army has instituted a new system of treating convalescents. Exercise and mental stimulation in the form of discussion groups, movies, language courses, and handicrafts become a part of the medication. And the disabled are taught new skills to assure their vocational futures.

So it is that American fighting men can go into battle with confidence. They know their task is a hard one, but they know too that, as Surgeon General Kirk has said, "no soldiers in any war ever got more scientific and painstaking medical care, more human understanding . . . and they will continue to get it wherever they are."



MIRACLE DRUG. Professor Alexander Fleming, who made the original discoveries leading to the present development of penicillin.

The Story of the Week



As the Russians near the Baltic Sea, they are moving so rapidly that at some points this map is outdated by the time it reaches the reader.

The War Fronts

The swiftly-paced offensives of the Russian armies continue to dominate the war news from Europe. The gap between them and East Prussia is steadily narrowing at many points, and it appears only a matter of a short time until the Baltic states of Lithuania, Latvia, and Estonia are entirely liberated from the Nazis.

As they retreat, the Nazis are laying huge mine fields, and are also seeking to impede the Russians by felling trees across all roads, blowing up bridges, wrecking transport facilities, and dynamiting tremendous holes in highways. But so far it is availing them little. The invincible Red armies simply follow up by such feats as their recent capture of the Polish city of Grodno, perhaps the greatest Nazi fortress city protecting the gateways into East Prussia.

In western Europe, Allied progress is much slower, and the great offensive which is to be made possible by supplies coming through the port of Cherbourg has yet to materialize. The most outstanding recent gain is the capture of Caen, one of France's largest ports, which is 120 miles from Paris. The next 30 to 50 days, however, are expected to be a time of heavy, and possibly decisive, action on this front.

Meanwhile, some military observers have expressed concern lest the slow developments in France may have given the enemy time to bring up reserves of men and supplies with which to counter the forthcoming Allied offensives. But it is also pointed out that the Allied high command may have a few surprises which will overcome this temporary enemy advantage.

Turning to the Pacific, American forces have completed the conquest of Saipan, central island of the Marianas, which is about 1,500 miles from Tokyo.

1795, Vilna became a Russian city. Under the Czar's rule, conflict between its different national groups first became a serious problem. Bloody but unsuccessful uprisings, especially by the Poles, marked its next hundred years. Then, in 1915, it passed into German hands. The Germans, however, did not keep it long. Before the end of the First World War, Russia's Bolshevik armies held it.

In the Versailles peace settlement, Vilna was awarded to the reborn nation of Lithuania. But in the period between 1919 and 1920, fierce fighting among the Poles, Russians, and Lithuanians made its real title doubtful. Finally, the Poles managed to hold it. Then the League of Nations stepped in, proposing that the city's nationality be decided either by plebiscite or by its transformation—along with the province of which it is the traditional capital—into an autonomous canton policed by an international force and administered under Lithuanian authority. None of the interested nations would agree to these plans, however, so Poland held Vilna until the beginning of the present war.

In September, 1939, Russia occupied the city, only to yield it to the Lithuanians a month later. In 1940, it returned to Russia, when Lithuania's Communist parliament voted for annexation to the Soviet Union. In 1941, Nazi armies overran it, and today Soviet forces are once more entrenched. Although there is little likelihood that Vilna will change hands again while the war is going on, its final disposition will provide a tough problem for those who make the peace.

Against the Black Market

Probably the worst racketeering the present war has produced in the United States has centered around the black market in gasoline. In the early months of this year, OPA officials found the situation almost completely out of hand, with a daily 2,500,000 gallons of gasoline from the rationable hoard lost to illegal dealers and consumers. At one point, the amount of gasoline absorbed by the black market amounted to an estimated 33 per cent. of the value of all "A" book allowances—enough to provide about three gallons a month for every motorist in the country.

Professional criminals as well as good citizens with lapses of con-

science were responsible. Counterfeiters turned their skills to the printing and distribution of false ration coupons. Professional burglars raided the stocks of legally printed ones. And the gangs of prohibition days revived to systematize these operations into gigantic rackets.

But the combination of aroused public opinion and improved OPA enforcement methods is now forcing the gasoline black market to give ground. The rule that motorists must endorse their coupons with the number of their license plates makes it easy to trace fraudulent coupons. In detecting false stamps, the OPA maintains eight "verification offices," where experts study questionable coupons under ultra-violet ray lamps which quickly reveal differences between the real and the counterfeit. Government criminal investigating agencies can then round up violators of the law.

The Federal Ballot

Soldiers and sailors from 19 states, if they are overseas at the time of the national election this fall, will have the opportunity of using especially prepared federal ballots to vote in that election. Servicemen and women from the 29 other states will have to use the regular absentee ballots provided by their several state governments if they are to vote in November.

Because the established procedures for obtaining state absentee ballots are complicated and time-consuming, several members of Congress argued strongly all last winter that the federal government should provide every member of the armed services, of voting age, with a simple federal ballot to be distributed and collected by Army and Navy authorities and then forwarded to civilian election officials for counting. This proposal was vigorously opposed by Congressional spokesmen for "states' rights," who blocked its adoption.

A compromise arrangement was finally enacted into law in March. It provided for a federal ballot, but stated that the use of the ballot should be restricted to persons outside the United States and further stated that it could be used only by overseas voters from states which specifically authorized the procedure. The law gave the states until July 15 to decide whether to approve the use of the federal ballot.

When the deadline arrived nine days

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Vilna—Historic Pawn

In the furious battle which preceded the recent Russian capture of Vilna, that historic city was reliving an old role. For more than five centuries it has been a pawn of the great central European rivalries, changing its nationality from Lithuanian to Polish to Russian to German and back again in a seemingly endless cycle of conquest and reconquest.

Vilna, known as the Baltic Gateway city, first came into prominence as the capital of Lithuania in 1323. A hundred years later, when Lithuania and Poland formed a single nation, it was Polish culture which distinguished it. But in the 17th century its castles and churches were almost completely wrecked by the disastrous Russian-Polish-Swedish wars.

After the partition of Poland in



MEDIEVAL ITALY. Members of the Fifth Army roll through the town square of one of Italy's most famous cities, Siena.

ago, only 19 states had acted favorably on the proposition. Some of the 29 states which rejected it did so on the ground that their state constitutions forbade them to do otherwise; others took the position that their established procedures for sending state absentee ballots overseas were entirely adequate; and some others passed special legislation simplifying the use of state ballots for soldiers and sailors.

War Casualties

Casualties suffered by United States armed forces in the present war have, within the past month, reached a total in excess of all American casualties in the First World War. In 1917-18 the overall casualty total was 278,828.

No official summaries for the past three weeks have yet been released, but up to July 3 in some sectors and to mid-June in other sectors there had been 274,626 casualties on the ground, in the air, and at sea. Additional casualties since then have almost certainly brought the aggregate for this war to a figure surpassing the total of the First World War. In making this comparison it should be remembered that the United States has been engaged in the Second World War for more than 31 months, while the war ended in 1918 after less than 20 months of American participation in the conflict.



PITZPATRICK IN ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH
The Deserter

Official reports covering the first 235,411 casualties suffered by our armed forces provided the following breakdown:

	Army	Navy
Killed	33,240	20,362
Wounded	77,449	14,127
Missing	38,142	9,433
Prisoners	38,197	4,461
	187,028	48,383

As compared with the 53,000 deaths of servicemen in two and one-half years of war, there were 94,500 civilian deaths from accidents in the United States in the single year 1943, according to a report of the National Safety Council.

What Next for Turkey?

No nation has played a more cautious game in the present war than Turkey. Formally, her government has remained neutral. At the same time, it has courted favor with both sides, sending Germany strategic war materials and carrying on protracted negotiations on the possibility of indirect aid to the Allied cause.

But now that Hitler faces almost certain doom, the Turks are veering more and more towards a positive commitment to our side. New and important conversations between Allied envoys and Turkish officials are now going on in Ankara. And there is



BACK FROM RUSSIA. Eric Johnston, (right) president of the United States Chamber of Commerce, as he was welcomed back in Washington by Ralph Bradford, general manager of the Chamber of Commerce.

other evidence of Turkey's desire to cast her lot with the United Nations.

Exports to Germany have been drastically curtailed. Franz von Papen, German ambassador to Turkey, has abruptly departed the country. And new expressions of friendliness and sympathy for Russia round out the picture. Previously, one of the greatest obstacles to Turkish accord with the Allies was fear that Russia would replace Turkey's influence in the Balkans with her own dominance. Now, however, the Turkish press dismisses such reports as Berlin propaganda and enthusiastically calls for cooperation with Russia in this area.

Reconversion Conflict

One of the most important non-military battles which has been going on in recent months has been that between the War Production Board's Donald M. Nelson and Army and Navy leaders over the weighty issue of reconversion. Specifically, they have disagreed on the question of whether industrialists whose work is not needed for war production should be permitted to start production of civilian goods now.

Nelson, champion of gradual reconversion beginning now, contends that war production is going so well that not all of the nation's manufacturing resources are needed to fill government orders. Consequently, he believes that unless the plants which have no more government work are allowed to reconvert immediately the twin evils of bankruptcy of many small plants and widespread unemployment will disrupt our economic stability by the end of the war.

Nelson's Army and Navy opponents argue that while the war production program is going well, we cannot afford to risk last-minute shortages by diverting labor and industrial equipment from its service merely because of a momentary lowering of the need for them. They feel, too, that it is fairer to all industry to delay reconversion until all manufacturers can begin production for civilian use on an equal footing. To this Nelson and his backers reply that it will be the small plants which will have the competitive advantage of reconverting first and that big business has enough resources to make up for this momentary handicap very quickly.

The dispute came to a head recently when Nelson released stockpiles of magnesium and aluminum for civilian use, ordered limited quantities of machine tools turned to this purpose, and

permitted manufacturers no longer busy with war contracts to plan and make some civilian products. Both sides threatened to call in the President for settlement of their differences. The intervention of War Mobilization Director James F. Byrnes, who ordered Nelson's program carried out, now seems to have ended the dispute for the time being with a victory for the WPB.

Results of a Visit

Concrete — and happy — results of General Charles de Gaulle's recent interview with the President in Washington have now been revealed to the American and French people. It appears that the differences of opinion which have separated our government and the French Committee of National Liberation since the Casablanca conference have finally been bridged in an agreement about the interim administration of France.

President Roosevelt has announced that the United States is prepared to recognize de Gaulle's group as the dominant authority in the freed areas of France. In doing so, this country will endorse the French-British agreement giving General de Gaulle's officials governmental authority in France so far as military conditions permit.

Although General de Gaulle is eager to have the final government of France decided in a free election by his countrymen, he had hoped to have the Committee of National Liberation recognized as a full-scale provisional government until such an election should be held. In spite of this further ambition, however, he is well satisfied with the settlement reached in the course of his Washington visit.



Candidate Dewey as he discussed campaign strategy with Rep. Clare Boothe Luce of Connecticut.

Eric Johnston Returns

Eric Johnston, president of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States, recently returned from a six-week visit to the Soviet Union with a highly optimistic report on the prospects for Russian-American economic cooperation after the war. He predicts that the Russians will purchase large quantities of American products for many years to come and that we shall receive in exchange such Soviet surpluses as manganese, copper, cobalt, platinum, nickel, and furs. He urges that, to facilitate trade in the immediate postwar years, American banks and businessmen should be prepared to grant extensive long-term credits to the Soviet government.

During his visit, Mr. Johnston had a long conversation with Premier Stalin.

As a private citizen and a businessman, Mr. Johnston was chiefly concerned with economic matters, giving only incidental attention to political and diplomatic questions. He stated emphatically his conviction that good economic relations between the U. S. S. R. and the U. S. A. would tend to insure good political relations. On this point he told reporters in Washington:

I believe that it is Marshal Stalin's complete desire to rebuild Russia and not to engage further in world conflict if he can avoid it. Russia is operating under a completely different economic system than we are. She is the most collectivized state the world has ever seen. But I see no reason why we cannot cooperate in spite of that.

I think that we have no conflicts of interest, other than that, perhaps. Neither one of us, I'm sure, wishes territorial aggrandizement from the other. I think a prosperous United States and a prosperous Soviet Union will go far toward preserving the peace of the world after the war.

SMILES

Mr. Smith: "This soup tastes funny."
Waiter: "Then why don't you laugh?"

• • •

"Bill has fever and is running a temperature."
"How high?"
"Two baes."
"What?"
"Bill has hay fever."

• • •

"How old is she?"
"I don't know, but when they brought in her birthday cake all lit up, six guests fainted from the heat."

• • •

"When I was shipwrecked in South America, I came across a tribe of wild women who had no tongues," said the salty old sea captain.

"Mercy," cried one of his feminine listeners, "how could they talk?"
"They couldn't. That's what made them wild."

• • •

It was at the Mount Wilson Observatory. A distinguished scientist was scanning the heavens through the huge telescope. Intent upon the sight, he remarked to his colleagues without turning his back, "It's going to rain."

"What makes you think so?" asked a brother scientist.

Still peering at the heavens, the astronomer replied: "Because my corn hurts."

• • •

In a heated session of the House of Commons some years ago, a member was asked whether he would vote for a certain bill.

Looking from one side of the House to the other, he slowly began:

"I will—"
He had no more than said this than applause broke from the right side of the House. But he continued:

"not—"
Loud cheers burst from the left side. Finally he finished:

"answer that question."
And a sudden silence fell over the entire House.



Scientists of the U. S. Public Health Service are making vital contributions in the fight against disease.

U. S. Public Health Service

THE United States Public Health Service was a rapidly growing organization before the war, and its growth has been speeded up since Pearl Harbor. Its large staff of able medical men and women, under the direction of Surgeon General Thomas Parran, is cooperating with military and private hospitals and doctors to maintain the highest possible health standards for the American people at home and abroad.

The Health Service has its central headquarters in the nation's capital, but its members conduct their activities in all parts of the country and wherever our servicemen and women are stationed. These public health experts and workers help to prevent and check epidemics. They assist state and local authorities in establishing proper health protection in military, naval, and industrial areas where there are large concentrations of troops or great increases in population as a result of the war. They conduct physical examinations of immigrants, and inspect passengers and crews of vessels and airplanes arriving from other lands so as to prevent the bringing of foreign diseases into our country.

In countless other ways, the Public Health Service is working to perform its assigned task of protecting and improving the public health of the American people. It publishes the results of the latest medical research which has been carried on in this country and abroad, a service of valuable use to doctors and medical workers in general. It provides the public with a great deal of health information through its various publications, exhibits, films, posters, news releases, and other educational facilities.

Part of the research staff of the Health Service is engaged in studying diseases of particular importance to the military forces, and studies in aviation medicine are going forward. Yellow fever and typhus vaccines are being supplied the Army and Navy, and Rocky Mountain spotted fever vaccine is being provided for both military and civilian use.

The War Department depends upon the Health Service for investigations of occupational hazards in government war plants. The Service has also established the standards for the collec-

tion, drying, and storage of blood plasma. It inspects the laboratories engaged in this endeavor.

Medical officers of the Service have been assigned to duty with the armed services, and they have also been working on the medical care program for the recruits and trainees of the Coast Guard and the War Shipping Administration. A large-scale war nurse training program is being carried on by the Service. Under this plan, 65,000 new nurses a year are being trained. Those enrolled in the U. S. Cadet Nurse Corps, as it is called, receive free training, maintenance, and uniforms, as well as monthly compensations.

These are among the numerous activities of the Public Health Service. The war has taken it into many new fields, but it also continues the important work which it has been doing for a number of years. One of its major tasks has been, and still is, to inspect factories which produce medicines and which sell their products across state lines. The Service tests these medical products to see that they are not dangerous to health.

In addition, the Service operates a hospital for the care and treatment of persons having leprosy, conducts two hospitals for the treatment and rehabilitation of drug addicts, studies and issues information on mental diseases, and supervises the medical and psychiatric services maintained in federal prisons.

While the Health Service will gradually be relieved of many of its wartime activities when peace comes, it is nevertheless expected to continue its growth. There is a widespread feeling that, after the war, more attention than ever before should be given to public health problems. If such a development occurs, the Public Health Service, under the vigorous and skillful leadership of Dr. Parran, is certain to play an increasingly important role in the nation's life.

Dr. Parran came into his present position of United States surgeon general in 1936. He has been in public health work ever since he was graduated from the medical school of Georgetown University, Washington, D. C., in 1915. For six years, he was head of the state health department of New York.

Expert in Two Fields

Richard Harkness of NBC

A MAN who has risen rapidly to a top position among the nation's radio commentators is Richard Harkness. He broadcasts 15 minutes an evening, five days a week, over National Broadcasting Company network. His program comes late in the East—from 11:15 to 11:30 P. M., but can be heard earlier in the interior and western parts of the country.

Mr. Harkness has all the essential qualities of a first-rate news commentator. In the first place, he has an appealing voice; one that commands attention. In addition, he is an intensive seeker of facts. He is not content merely with telling that something has happened, but he also is determined to find out and tell why it happened. He goes beneath the surface of the news in the effort to understand and pass on to his listeners the meaning of events. His interpretations are sound and very often they are brilliant.

There are few newspaper men or radio commentators who work as hard as does Mr. Harkness to track down information on public problems. He makes it a point to meet people in high or low places who are making news. He knows literally hundreds of people, and, possessed as he is with a keen memory, he can call them all by name.

Mr. Harkness was born in South Dakota. He attended Kansas University and devoted much time there to campus reporting. He became so well known through his journalistic activities at college that he was able, upon graduation, to get a job with the United Press Bureau at Kansas City.

His work at the United Press was the usual routine reporting of crimes, fires, and city politics in Kansas City. After gaining experience in this type of reporting, he was sent to various UP bureaus in nearby states. He handled his assignments so well that he was sent to the Washington bureau of the United Press.

As Washington correspondent, Mr. Harkness distinguished himself just as he had in his earlier journalistic career. He concentrated his attention on national problems. He became well known as a reporter and interpreter of the domestic scene. He accompanied President Roosevelt on his swings around the country, wrote by-line stories from Hyde Park, Florida, New Orleans, and other places where the President traveled. In the 1940 presidential campaign, he toured the country with both President Roosevelt and Wendell Willkie.

Mr. Harkness has an intimate knowledge of the practical workings of government. He has covered the White House most of the time since he came to Washington some 10 years ago. He has made an extensive study of the men and policies of all the important government agencies. He knows and understands the political structure of our country from top to bottom.

Mr. Harkness' intensive desire to meet and know people who make the news naturally has enabled him to obtain many "scoops." He has learned of numerous big developments before they occurred. He was one of the first newspaper men to recognize a national story in the Pendergast political machine in Kansas City. He found out in advance of most of his colleagues that President Roosevelt was to ask for repeal of the arms embargo. In February, 1943, he broke the story on the extensive black market in meat. It was not until about a month later that most of the other newspaper and radio commentators gave attention to this serious problem. These are but three important developments on which Mr. Harkness obtained and reported advance information for his readers.

But it is not merely his ability to obtain "scoops" that has led him to the top in both the newspaper and radio professions. He also possesses the talent of being able to interpret events in such a way as to make their significance clear and meaningful. This is one of the important reasons why his audience of listeners is increasing on a rapid scale. He has been a radio commentator only about two years now, but his news analyses are broadcast over more than 60 radio stations.

Large numbers of people have recently listened to Mr. Harkness' interesting and penetrating discussions of the national political conventions. A short time ago, he was selected as moderator on a series of radio programs conducted by the Department of State. The purpose of these programs was to depict the role of our diplomats in carrying into effect the nation's foreign policy. It spoke well for Mr. Harkness' ability as a commentator that he was chosen as moderator for these highly important programs.

Mr. Harkness lives in the nation's capital, and, except when he is on special assignments, his programs originate from Station WRC in Washington.



Richard Harkness interviewing John W. Bricker, Republican vice-presidential nominee.

Britain Endures Flying-Bomb Attack

(Concluded from page 1)

bomb was reported from London a few days ago by Hanson W. Baldwin, military expert of the New York Times. According to Baldwin, "the bombs now in use are of 16 to 18-foot wing-span and are launched from simple prefabricated concrete launching platforms that may take from three days to two weeks to construct. The platforms are small targets and very easy to conceal; it seems probable that the enemy can construct them faster than we can bomb them out.

"The bombs are also simple in design and construction; they are made of sheet metal and can be built 'in nearly any boiler factory.' They probably cost less than \$3,000 apiece exclusive of compass and gyro-pilot. The enemy can plot the probable course of the bomb in flight and its approximate bursting point and can therefore make corrections for wind, etc., before launching successive bombs.

"The flying bomb is really a flying torpedo; it has many of the characteristics of a torpedo, including its control mechanisms. It has a clockwork counter mechanism that, after a given number of minutes in flight, will arm the warhead by pushing the detonator into place, will put the elevators down to put the bomb into a dive and will cut off the engine."

According to another account in the British aviation magazine *Flight*, as reported by the New York *Herald-Tribune*, the motive power of the missile is supplied by an "11-foot steel tube surmounting the aft portion of the flying bomb. . . . At the tube's forward end is a grille embodying a series of air inlets, each controlled by a shutter of spring steel. After the bomb is launched, possibly by catapults, air pressure forces the shutters open and air enters the tube."

"Here it is mixed with gasoline sprayed from fine jets," the account continues, "and . . . the resulting explosive mixture is ignited. The succeeding explosion closes the air shutters. The pressure wave created at the front end thereupon violently ejects the combustion products from the rear end—and the impulse reaction forces the craft forward."

Repeated Explosions

One explosion follows another in rapid succession, it is explained, to maintain the bomb in forward flight until it is over its target, when the clock-work mechanism causes it to drop. It is a clever device and has caused Allied aviation authorities to admit that "the Germans have made a motor out of a chimney pipe."

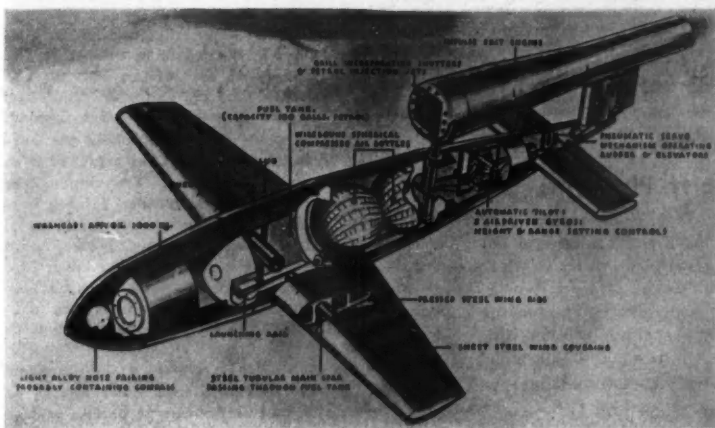
The introduction of the flying bomb by the Germans has set off a wave of speculation concerning the potentialities of this new weapon. The Nazis have been getting the most out of the propaganda possibilities by dropping hints of much greater and much more devastating flying bombs to come. They wish to create the impression that they can make bombs capable of crossing the Atlantic and falling down on American cities. They hope to terrorize the civilian populations of the Allied countries by planting fearsome thoughts about their "secret weapon."

Such forecasts, of course, are wildly exaggerated. Flying bombs of the present one-ton size consume gasoline at the rate of one gallon per minute. It would take an estimated 400 gallons

of fuel per hour to carry a 12-ton bomb across the Atlantic, or about 55,000 pounds for the entire trip. The fuel load would be greater than the weight of the explosive charge. On this basis it does not appear that long-range bombs can be successfully developed during the present war.

This does not mean that larger flying bombs will not be used in Europe

robot plane, or whatever one wishes to call it has long been in the minds of scientists. About 10 years ago the League of Nations, desiring to obtain some estimate about the character of a future war (as a means of promoting the cause of disarmament), sought out the opinions of a group of military experts representing different countries. The results, brought together



Mechanism of the Nazi flying bomb

during the remainder of the war, nor that they should not be taken seriously. We cannot be sure what the Germans will be able to do before they are finally driven into defeat.

However, as a future weapon, as a weapon for possible future wars, the flying bomb gives the greatest cause for concern. Experts are inclined to think that the introduction of the missile compares in importance with the introduction of the airplane and the tank in the latter stages of World War I. The plane and tank were still in their early development stages when World War I came to an end; they came into their own only in World War II.

With the intensified development

in a book entitled *What Would Be the Character of a New War?* made interesting reading (an article based on it appeared at the time in THE AMERICAN OBSERVER). Here is what Major-General J. F. C. Fuller wrote as part of a chapter on "The Mechanisation of Warfare":

"Why not send forward over that (enemy) city two hundred unmanned and partially armored aeroplanes wirelessly controlled by, I will suppose, 10 occupied ones flying at a distance from them, or at a high altitude above them? Each of these two hundred machines would be nothing more than a flying projectile—a true aerial torpedo—which will explode on impact with the ground, or be exploded by a wireless



One of Hitler's rocket planes as it plunged to earth over an unidentified town in southeast England.



As during the earlier blitz, London children are now being evacuated from the danger zones.

which all countries will give the flying bomb after the war, who can say how powerful a weapon it may become 20 years hence? It is not impossible that bombs will be made which can span oceans and continents if necessary, flying through the stratosphere, accurately guided by new devices, and falling with great accuracy on previously selected targets. There is no reason to think that eventually something like this cannot be done.

We know that the principle of the rocket bomb, the aerial torpedo, the

wave by the airmen directing them."

General Fuller did not take into account the ease with which radio waves can be intercepted and radio-controlled devices deflected, but his forecast on the whole was sound, as experience has now proved. In view of what he wrote then it is worth noting what he says now. In his latest column in *Newsweek* he comments: "In my opinion (the flying bomb) portends as great a revolution in the art of war as those successively effected by the bow and arrow, the

musket, the cannon, and the airplane." He goes on to declare that the revolution "carries with it the doom of the bomber as a piece of long-range artillery and probably also the doom of the cannon in most of its many forms. The method of attack will then be introduced which will enable one nation to wage war on another, a war of maximum annihilation, without moving a man."

If there is any substance to this at all it means that the world is faced with a new menace which it cannot afford to ignore. The potentialities of the flying bomb or torpedo are bound to color our thinking about the nature of the peace settlements to be made after this war and also about the nature of international organization afterward.

The fact that flying bombs can be made cheaply "in nearly any boiler factory," and that emplacements to launch them can easily be concealed, means that future peace cannot be assured merely by forbidding defeated nations to build armaments factories. Much more thought will have to be devoted to the problem of supervision to keep a nation from developing and manufacturing a weapon of this kind.

Ideas about national sovereignty, about the value of strategic frontiers, about the power of a nation, however great, to defend itself under any circumstances may have to be revised in the light of the advances of modern science. The conclusion is inescapable that unless man finds a way to end war, war will eventually destroy him.

It becomes more important than ever that the peace and security of the world after this war be built on solid and lasting foundations. It is a task which cannot be undertaken with the prejudices, the animosities, suspicions, and rooted beliefs of the past. The peoples of all nations need to take a new and fresh view of the direction in which the world is traveling.

NEWS QUIZ

1. What facts about the health of the American people have been revealed by results of the physical examinations given by the Army and Navy under the Selective Service system?
2. What are some of the objections which doctors raise to proposed plans for government health care?
3. How can you explain the statement that members of the middle class in the United States are more handicapped in obtaining adequate medical care than either the rich or the poor?
4. What is the main provision of the Wagner-Murray-Dingell bill?
5. Explain the mechanism of the German flying bomb.
6. How are the Allies trying to combat the use of flying bombs by Germany? What difficulties impede the success of their efforts?
7. What is considered the principal technical barrier to the construction of a flying bomb capable of spanning the Atlantic Ocean?
8. In what way may the present German use of flying bombs strengthen the cause of world peace after the war ends?
9. How does the Army Medical Corps combat tropical diseases?
10. What are some of the ills on which the Army has conspicuously lowered its death rate since World War I?
11. Describe the work of the United States Public Health Service.
12. What soldiers and sailors will be permitted to use the "federal ballot" for voting in the national election this year?
13. What are the prospects for post-war trade between the United States and the Soviet Union, in the opinion of Mr. Eric Johnston?

Points of View

What Authors and Editors Are Saying

(The ideas expressed in these columns should not be taken to represent the views of the editors of THE AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

Women: Key Voters

The role played by women at both the major political conventions shows that wise party leaders are aware of the key position which women will hold at the polls this year. The July 14 *United States News* calls attention to the importance of women voters in coming elections.

Women hold the key to the election. For the first time in American history they can outvote the men. They could do this even if there were no men away from home in the armed forces, shut off from voting by the restrictions some of the states have created. In 1944, there are more women of voting age than men.

The women and worker groups, though somewhat intermingled, represent the two biggest blocs of votes in the American population. . . . Besides these two groups, the soldier vote is much smaller in numbers and is shut off from full expression by complicated voting machinery. . . .

Each party is angling openly for the votes of these three groups. But especially are they aiming for the women's vote. It is a year when women are making ammunition and running war plants. . . . In such a year, the political party which catches the women's vote may expect to find that it has the worker and soldier vote as well.

Our Dominion Neighbor

Across our northern border lies a country which is larger than ours, but has only one-twelfth as much population as we do. A recent Foreign Policy Association pamphlet, *Canada—Our Dominion Neighbor*, tells the story of how 11½ million Canadians prepared their country to make a real contribution to the winning of the war.

Wartime Canada's achievements include an army which has seen service in Norway, Dieppe, Sicily, Italy, and now Normandy; a navy which fought the Battle of the Atlantic and which convoyed precious cargoes to Britain; the establishment of an air training program which serves the British Commonwealth; and the production of industrial and agricultural goods needed for war. The changes in Canadian economy brought about by mobilization for war are described in this pamphlet.

To accomplish all this, Canada has undergone an industrial and agricultural revolution. . . . The changes in agriculture have consisted of shifting from wheat as the major crop to the production of more concentrated foods, notably pork products, cheese and eggs. . . . The new kinds of produce have made heavy demands on farm labor already depleted by the armed forces and industry, but by heroic efforts Canadian farmers have met both domestic and overseas needs. . . .

On the industrial side, Canada has be-

come the world's third largest trading nation, the world's largest producer of base metals, and the fourth largest producer of war supplies among the United Nations. . . . Although no Canadian yard for building ocean-going vessels was in operation in 1939, there are now 23 major shipyards, and 65 small boatyards turning out freighters, destroyers, . . . and all types of landing and assault barges. . . .

Startling though these and other achievements are, it is even more astounding that they have been accomplished without the use of one cent of Lend-Lease funds from the United States. Not only are the Canadian people financing the entire cost of the war themselves, they . . . have also been able to establish a Mutual Aid Fund, similar to Lend-Lease, to provide other United Nations with two billion dollars worth of Canadian war materials.

Party Platforms

After each major political party holds a convention and adopts a platform, there are those who bemoan the ambiguity, the triteness, and the superficiality of the platform. Others dismiss the platform lightly, calling it only campaign talk which should be aimed at vote-getting more than at statesmanship.

In a recent *New York Times Magazine*, David Hinshaw asks an interesting question about party platforms and political progressiveness:

But if the platforms of the major parties are mostly pompous statements of issues long accepted as such, if not once in a decade do they emit a spark of originality, how have we kept our political thinking in tune with our unparalleled material progress of the past century? That, in the American scheme, has been the function of the minor parties. Only one of them, the Republican, has ever shoved a major party off the map and stepped into its place. And it is no coincidence that its first declaration of principles, adopted in 1856, was one of the three great political platforms drawn since we established the custom.

The only way minor parties have of reaching the hearts of the voters is to say and do something original, and no fear of alienating a bloc of voters restrains them. Virtually every new policy, accepted late and reluctantly by the major parties, has sprung from their platforms.

Italian Anniversary

This week, July 25, marks an anniversary for the Italian people which has come to be only recently. One year ago Benito Mussolini resigned his position as premier of fascist Italy. This day will be celebrated by a people who are rejoicing in the privilege of choosing their own government.

Italy's first year of freedom from the fascist yoke has not been without storm. Hilda Fisher, in *Current History*, for July, reviews Italian politics during the past year, recalling Badoglio's succession to Mussolini, the op-

Underground in Action

Writing in the *New York Herald Tribune*, July 12, Sonia Tomara reviews the French resistance movement since D-Day, or "Jour-J," as the French say. She points out three phases which the action to date has taken:

At first the Frenchmen took the offensive and drew the Germans out. Acts of sabotage became more and more numerous. In some provinces communications were virtually cut, and districts isolated.

As Vichy officials, terrified at popular anger, resigned their functions or went over to the rebels, the leaders of the Maquis had to take power. Thus regular liberated islands of resistance were formed.

During the second phase the Germans retaliated. They attacked with armor and planes. Frenchmen, like any guerrillas, avoided joining battle and melted away into the Maquis. Everywhere German losses were about five times higher than the losses of the French. Angry at not being able to annihilate the partisans, the Germans retaliated with brutal fury.

The grim story of Oradour sur Glane is told in French circles as typical of German ferocity. It was a quiet village in the Limousin with 1,200 inhabitants. The Germans swooped down on it and burned every house. A number of people took refuge in the church. The Germans broke in with bayonets. . . . This happened on June 10. Oradour is called the French Lidice now.

In the third phase of French resistance the patriots who had been scattered began to re-group. They are still in this phase now. Cells

are being reformed. Links are forged again. Arms are taken out of caches, and meanwhile, sabotage continues. You may already have heard of Das Reich Armored Division, which was on its way to Normandy. It was moving by road and partisans engaged it, delaying its progress by thirty hours. Some 300 Germans were killed, against a loss of only 40 Frenchmen.

The general set-up of French resistance seems to have changed since I had heard from it last, now that the fight has begun for good. Fighters no longer belong to groups,



REC FROM LONDON DAILY MIRROR

and no difference is made between the northern and southern zone. There are actual warriors, who live mostly in the Maquis and wage war on the Germans. They belong to the French Forces of the Interior and the Algiers government considers them as soldiers.

position to him in Italy and abroad, King Victor's retirement, the resignation of Badoglio and his cabinet, and the establishment of the Bonomi cabinet. In summary, the article seems to answer with some reservations the question asked so often in regard to Italy, "Is Italy a democracy now?"

Reviewing events in the Italian peninsula for the past eleven months, it is clear that the first stage in the Italian transition from Fascism to the democracy promised in the armistice terms of last September, the Moscow Declaration, and the utterances of Allied statesmen, has been concluded with the retirement of the King and the resignation of Pietro Badoglio. The transitional period can be completed only when all the German forces have been expelled from Italy and the Italian people are given an opportunity to pass judgment upon the House of Savoy. In his most recent speech, Winston Churchill of Great Britain admitted that the Italian campaign might have been "more swift or audacious." This admission might well be applied to the political situation. Perhaps the concluding stages of Italian politics in their

approach to democracy will materialize more rapidly than the initial one.

O'Mahoney on States' Rights

Senator Joseph C. O'Mahoney, Democrat of Wyoming, wrote a series of articles recently for the *Washington Daily News*, one of which tells what he calls "The Truth About States' Rights." The highlights of the article follow:

No one can disagree with Mr. (Wendell) Willkie's characterization of states' rights as "only a relic" so long as one means that states cannot hope to solve the obviously national problems, but it would be a mistake to dismiss the revival of this traditional issue as merely a "mask" to hide ulterior purposes or as a reaction from New Deal policies. The slogan appeals to the fundamental instincts of the people who are actually aware that local economic independence has been vanishing in America for more than a generation.

It is important to realize just why, as long ago as 1933, President Hoover's report on Social Trends reached the conclusion, quoted by Mr. Willkie, that the states are incapable of dealing with certain "vital aspects of social and economic life." The New Deal was not responsible for the expansion in Federal power in the Hoover report and cited by Mr. Willkie.

The truth is that concentration of power in Washington has proceeded steadily for the last half century without much regard to party. Under the tremendous pressure of war discretionary government has reached unprecedented peaks, but it is undeniable the birth of bureaucracy antedated Franklin D. Roosevelt by many years. . . .

The sentiment for "states' rights" will not be satisfied by the perfection of Big Government. What it demands and what the country needs is a new opportunity for establishment of independent business, for development of local resources, and the stabilization of community life. That opportunity cannot be gained until it is clearly understood that the concentration at Washington has not come about because any responsible political leaders have deliberately undertaken to expand the Federal government at the expense of the states, but because business, which was once primarily individual and local, has become primarily corporate and national.



Canada's agriculture and industry have undergone profound changes to meet the requirements placed upon them by United Nations' war needs.

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